THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES!
JLA
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WORLD WAR III
PART 3 OF 6
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...AS CONFLICTS BREAK OUT ACROSS THE GLOBE, ASTRONOMERS REPORT THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER IS STILL ABLAZE.
MANKIND'S LAST HOPE IS A GUTTERING TORCH ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON AND...AND...
WE'RE ALL DEAD, DON'T YOU SEE? THIS IS ALL JUST THE BEGINNING.
ALL DEAD!
HERE IS THE NEWS.
MAY GOD FORGIVE ME.
IT WORKS THROUGH AGENTS TO DESTROY ANY AND ALL RESISTANCE TO ITS PROGRAM; YOUR POWER RING WAS DETECTED, LOCATED AND IS NOW NEUTRALIZED.
AWW NO.
...MY RING...
IT CAN'T BE STOPPED, IT USES WHAT IT FINDS...
AND THIS TIME IT FOUND US, IT USED US TO END THE WORLD FOR IT.
IT IS A VERY CLEVER WEAPON... AND...
...HHHELP ME.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

CONVERSION BY WILDSTORM

...AH... DON'T I KNOW YOUR FACE FROM SOMEWHERE?

OH YES.

I KNOW YOU.

PART THREE

WORLD WAR THREE

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JLA HEADQUARTERS:
YOU ARE A NEUTRALIZED ELEMENT.
THE THREAT YOU POSED IS ELIMINATED. YOU MAY HAVE ENDANGERED THE SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT OF THE MAGEDDON WARHEAD.
NOT ANY-MORE.
IT KILLED YOUR RING.
NO.
TZZWEE
AND MADE YOU JUST AS VULNERABLE AS EVERYONE ELSE.
KYLE!
THIS IS J'ONN J'ONZZ! FULL TELEPATHIC LINK ENGAGED!
KUUUUUM
J'ONN, MAN! I OWE YOU BIG TIME!
THIS IS THE SAME THING WE SAW IN BELLE REVE!
I FEEL A PRESENCE... TITANIC IN SCALE... USING LEX LUTHOR AS ITS HOST!
WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO INJURE HIM!
LUTHOR! PROMETHEUS HERE!
GUESS WHAT?

I'M TAKING BATMAN DOWN AGAIN!
THHZZUNTCH
TSSA!
SLASH
WHUNNCH
UURR HUUH
SHHCH
WHAP
RRRAAAA
CHUUH

WHUMP
HNN
KRAK
URRRRR
MAYJA ROOK
ZEEEEEE
WHO
MMF

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE BEATEN TWICE IN YOUR OWN HOME?
MY ENDORPHINS ARE TAKING CARE OF THE JAW PAIN.
YOU'D NEED TEN TIMES THE ENDORPHINS YOU'VE GOT TO RECOVER FROM WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
VEEP
YOUR SKILLS AND REFLEXES ARE COUNTERFEIT; PROGRAMMED DIRECTLY INTO YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM FROM THE CD IN YOUR HELMET.
NNNuGHH
WHUSSSIS?
I KNOW THAT BECAUSE I SPENT A MONTH DISSECTING THAT HELMET. THE ONE YOU HAD TO SWITCH TO AFTER ORACLE WRECKED THE NEW MODEL.
AND I JUST REWROTE THE INFORMATION ON YOUR DISK.
I WIPED THE MARTIAL ARTS AND GYMNASTICS PROGRAMS.
YOUR NERVOUS AND MUSCULAR SYSTEMS ARE NOW BEING IMPRINTED WITH THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE MAN...

PROFESSOR STEPHEN HAWKING!

...UNN...

YOU OKAY, HUNTRESS?

...DID I SEE YOU CHEATING?

WINNING.

FIRST TIME I EVER HIT A MAN WITH *MOTOR NEURON DISEASE*.

THE WATCHTOWER SEEMS TO BE FALLING DOWN AROUND US. RESTRAIN *HIM* WHILE I APPRAISE THE SITUATION.

WITH PLEASURE.

IF I'D WON, HE'D BE DEAD.

WOULDN'T YOU, CREEP?

DON'T EVEN *THINK* IT.

YOU BREAK HIM, YOU PAY FOR

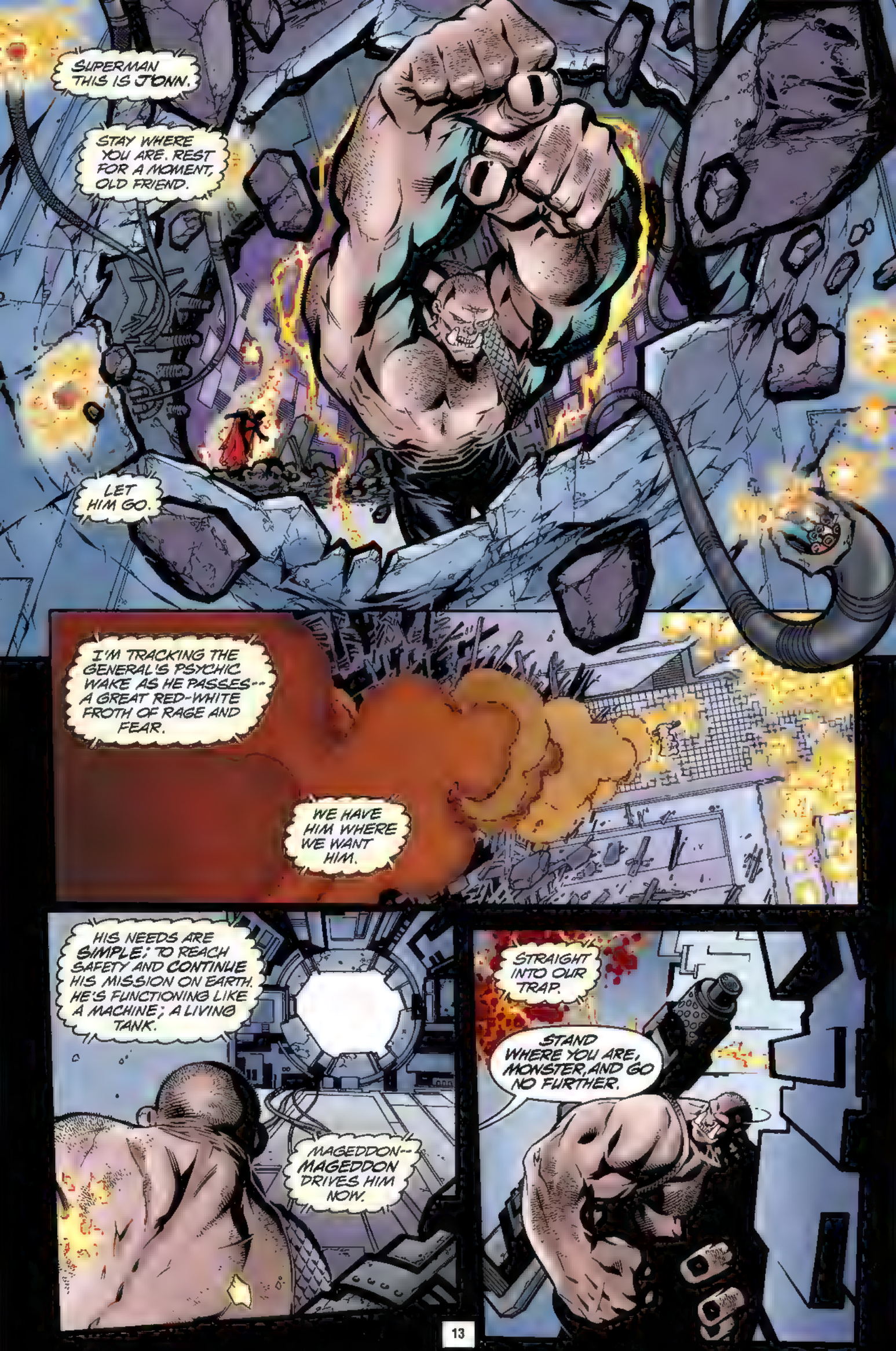
KLIK

DAMN.

...THE WATCHTOWER IS UNDER SIEGE!
NO COMMUNICATIONS. LIFE SUPPORT DOWN IN SEVERAL KEY MODULES. THE HALL OF JUSTICE BREACHED.
GREAT HERA...
THIS IS MAGEDDON'S DOING?
ALL OF IT.
HERE.
METRON, TAKE MOTHER BOX WHERE SHE WILL BE MOST NEEDED.
PING PING PING PING
ORION! WITHOUT MOTHER BOX'S SOOTHING INFLUENCE AND QUARK-WEAVING SKILLS...
THE HANDSOME MASK I WEAR TO SPARE FAIR NEW GENESIS MY UGLINESS SHALL FALL AWAY, REVEALING MY TRUE FACE, BARDA?
MY TRUE NATURE?
THEN AS ORION IN HIS WRATH LET ME CONFRONT THE ANNIHILATOR!
THE BLOOD RED GAME OF GODS HAS BEGUN!

GOTHAM CITY
OWWWWWW
...
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
I AM METRON, MASTER OF TIME, SPACE AND MIND.
THERE ARE NO BARRIERS TO MY MOBIUS CHAIR, I AM PRESENT IN THE META-HERE. THE HYPER-NOW. THE OMNI-MOMENT.
THAT'S SOME CHAIR.
METRON OF THE NEW GODS, RIGHT? PLANET EARTH COULD USE SOME HELP RIGHT NOW...
THE CELESTIALS BARDA AND ORION ARE EARTH'S ELECTED DEFENDERS.
I HAVE REASONS OF MY OWN FOR GIVING YOU THIS.
YOU ARE ONLY FORERUNNERS.
PING
PING
PING
NG
NG

HATCHER MONITOR WORM
HIT ME AGAIN AND AGAIN, SUPERMAN!
I WILL REGENERATE!
ALL YOU CAN EVER DO IS HIT ME! WASTE YOUR STRENGTH ON ME WHILE THE WORLD DROWNS IN...
WHY?
GENERAL EILING, WHY?
SHZZULPH
WHY?
KROOM
WHY?
UNNH
JUST TO SEE THE DISAPPOINTMENT ON YOUR CORN-FED, GEE-WHIZ FACE, SUPERMAN.
AND BECAUSE A GREAT DARK VOICE ON THE EDGE OF NOTHING SPOKE TO ME AND SAID YOU ALL HAD TO DIE.
EILING...
THERE IS NO "WHY?"


SUPERMAN THIS IS J'ONN.
STAY WHERE YOU ARE. REST FOR A MOMENT, OLD FRIEND.
LET HIM GO.
I'M TRACKING THE GENERAL'S PSYCHIC WAKE AS HE PASSES-- A GREAT RED-WHITE FROTH OF RAGE AND FEAR.
WE HAVE HIM WHERE WE WANT HIM.
HIS NEEDS ARE SIMPLE; TO REACH SAFETY AND CONTINUE HIS MISSION ON EARTH. HE'S FUNCTIONING LIKE A MACHINE; A LIVING TANK.
MAGEDDON-- MAGEDDON DRIVES HIM NOW.
STRAIGHT INTO OUR TRAP.
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, MONSTER, AND GO NO FURTHER.

...ORION. SOME KIND OF ALIEN THINKS IT'S A GOD, RIGHT?
WE GOT DOSSIERS ON ALL YOU GUYS.
WHAT'S YOUR LITTLE DOG'S NAME?
STURMER.
KILL.
AAGHR
RROOL
THIS IS J'ONN J'ONZZ ON TELEPATHIC SUB-FREQUENCIES IN THE INFRASOMBRE BANDS OF THE MOOD SPECTRUM...

ATLANTIS
AQUAMAN! YOU'RE THERE! WE'RE WITNESSING THE FALL OF THE WATCHTOWER!
WE NEED YOU TO JOIN MISTER MIRACLE IN...
FORGET IT. I JUST GOT BACK TO ATLANTIS TO FIND CIVIL WAR IN PROGRESS!
WE'LL TALK LATER, J'ONN, OKAY?
ENOUGH!
LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
THE KING!
YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
THEN YOU FIGHT FOR ME!

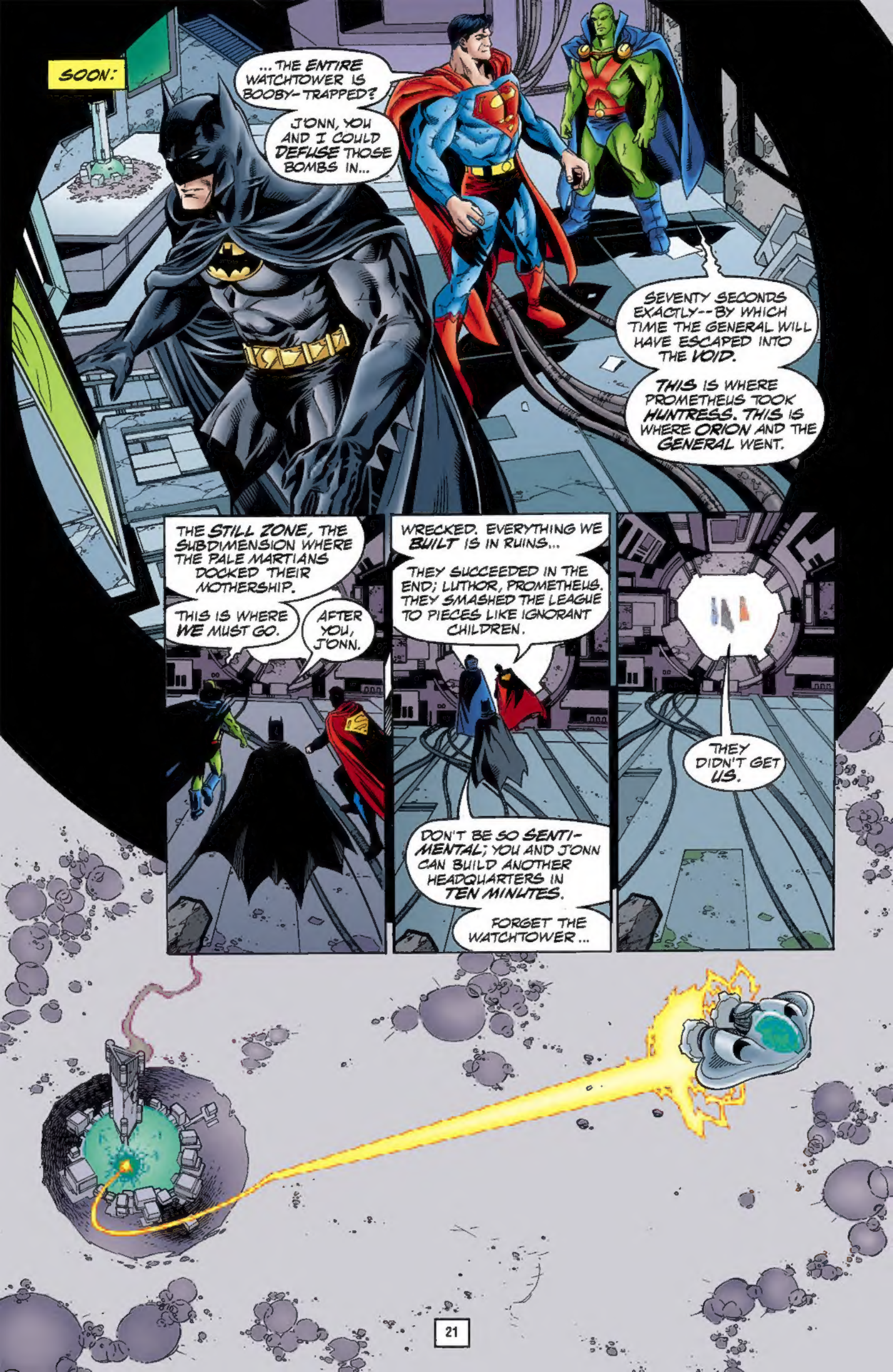
NEW YORK CITY!
...GREAT HERA! THEY'RE USING GARBAGE, BOOKS, ANYTHING THEY CAN FIND, TO CONVERT DOWNTOWN NEW YORK INTO A GIANT HIVE COMPLEX.
AND STEEL... A DRONE LIKE THE REST.
THE QUEEN BEE USED HYPNO-POLLEN ON HIM?
WELL, THERE'S A STORY TO THAT, LADIES, AND AM I GLAD YOU GOT HERE IN TIME TO HEAR IT.
SEE, BACK IN THE LEAN YEARS I USED TO SHARE PROZAC WITH A NO-HOPE HERO CALLED THE RED BEE; LOSER LOVED BEES LIKE SOME MEN LOVE THEIR MOTHERS AND HE LOVED TALKING ABOUT 'EM EVEN MORE... ALL THE WAY UNTIL LAST CALL.
SO?
SO BELIEVE ME, IN THE ABSENCE OF MY LATE FRIEND, THE BEE, I AM THE NEAREST THING YOU GOT TO AN AUTHORI-TAH ON APIAN MANAGEMENT.
IS THIS...?
MY OWN BOOM TUBE GENERATOR?
DOES THIS MAKE ME A GOD?

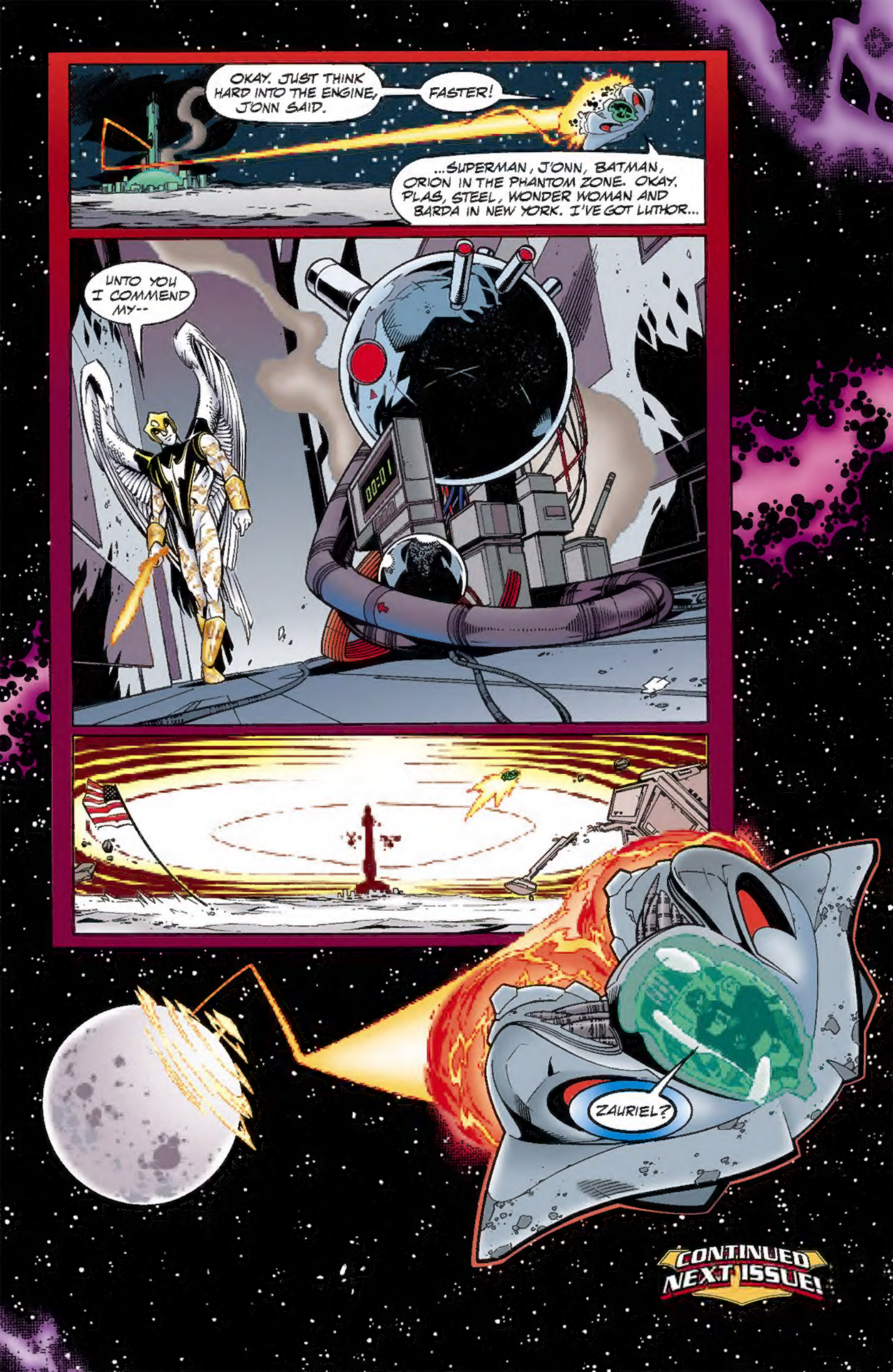
WITHIN THE HIVE
OUR NESZZT WILL SZZOON BE ONLINE AND FUNCTIONAL.
OUR COLONY SWARMSZZ FROM SZZPACE TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTCZZION OF THE ROYAL EGGMATRIX.
WE SZZHALL EXERCISE OUR BIOLOGICAL RIGHT TO PLUNDER THISZZ PLANET'SZZ RESZZOURCES.
WORK! BUILD!
OUR HYPNO-POLLEN FACTORIESZZ ARE SZZYNTHESZZISZZING THE SZZIMPLE WORK SZZKILLS YOU NEED; THE VERY AIR YOU BREATHE WILL SZZOON AUTOPROGRAM YOUR CASZZTE-ROLE IN THE HIVE HIERARCHY.
WORK! BUILD!
PLASTIC MAN, THIS ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A PLAN.
I ONLY ACT DUMB, SISTER.
OKAY... THE QUEEN BEE CAN SMELL AND TASTE LIKE WE CAN, BUT HER HEARING SUCKS AND... GET THIS--SHE CAN SEE ULTRAVIOLET BUT SHE'S BLIND TO THE COLOR RED.
YOU KNOW WHY ME AND STEEL HANG OUT? WE'RE BOTH LATERAL THINKERS.

THE JLA EMBASSY NORTH AMERICA
...WHO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE TROOPS ANYWAY, MISTER DICK VAN MIRACLE OF THE NEW GODS?
THERE ARE SUPERVILLAINS GOING SCHIZO ON THE STREETS, WORLD LEADERS BAYING FOR EACH OTHER'S BLOOD, FLAMES ON THE DAMN MOON...
THANKS FOR SUMMING UP THERE, GUY.
LOOK, NO ONE'S IN CHARGE HERE. EITHER YOU WANT TO HELP AND YOU BRING SOME IDEAS TO THE TABLE OR YOU LEAVE AND MAKE YOUR OWN PEACE.
THE JLA WATCHTOWER IS UNDER ATTACK AS WE SPEAK, AND WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT EARTH ITSELF HAS BECOME THE TARGET OF AN...ALIEN WEAPON...A DOOMSDAY WEAPON NAMED MAGEDDON.
WHAT IS THIS THING?
ARE WE HAVING ANOTHER CRISIS ALREADY?
THIS EXPLAINS THE WARS, RIGHT?
DOOOOM
...AZTEK... BLIND... I'M...
...I SAW ITS FACE...THE BURNING SHADOW... I SAW ITS EYE...
...AND IT SAW ME.

JLA WATCHTOWER
THERE IS NOTHING HERE TO BARGAIN WITH. THERE IS ONLY MAGEDDON, ARMED AND FUNCTIONING.
...HUNN... NOTHING.
I HAVE TO ATTEMPT A TELEPATHIC MERGE.
...IT IS DONE--IT HAS BUH-BEGUN...
...MY VOICE... BUT NOT MY THOUGHTS... NOT MY MIND.
...IT IS LIKE A FACTORY... NEVER-ENDING... ITS PURPOSE IS TO TURN LIFE INTO DEATH... CAN...
...CAN ANYONE HEAR ME? ... I'M LEX LUTHOR... AND I CAN'T GET OUT...
MAY THE PRESENCE PRESERVE US.
THE SAME EVIL WE CONFRONTED DURING THE PRISON RIOT; THE GREAT DRAGON, THE BILLION-EYED BEAST OF THE ABYSS...
J'ONN, BE CAREFUL; IT'S NOT A LIVING MIND.
HE DOESN'T WANT THIS. THE LUTHOR WE KNOW WOULDN'T EVER ALLOW ANYONE TO CONTROL HIM LIKE THIS.
LUTHOR, SHAKE IT OFF!
J'ONN! GET OUT!
URRR.
LUTHOR! YOU'RE THE SMARTEST GUY ON THE PLANET, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS TELL US...

YOU KNOW, I'M LOSING RESPECT FOR A GREAT CRIMINAL MASTER-MIND HERE...
HOW MANY MORE EYES? IN THE WHITE HOUSE CELLAR? IN A QURACI BUNKER OR A KREMLIN STOREROOM? GENERATING ANGER, MADNESS, WAR.
LUTHOR, YOU'RE BEING OUTSMARTED BY A GIANT EYEBALL!
MMMMUUUU
AAAAAUUUU
HUUIN
J'ONN! WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
EVACUATE THE WATCHTOWER.
IT'S HERE.


SOON:
...THE ENTIRE WATCHTOWER IS BOOBY-TRAPPED?
J'ONN, YOU AND I COULD DEFUSE THOSE BOMBS IN...
SEVENTY SECONDS EXACTLY--BY WHICH TIME THE GENERAL WILL HAVE ESCAPED INTO THE VOID.
THIS IS WHERE PROMETHEUS TOOK HUNTRESS. THIS IS WHERE ORION AND THE GENERAL WENT.
THE STILL ZONE, THE SUBDIMENSION WHERE THE PALE MARTIANS DOCKED THEIR MOTHERSHIP.
THIS IS WHERE WE MUST GO.
AFTER YOU, J'ONN.
WRECKED. EVERYTHING WE BUILT IS IN RUINS...
THEY SUCCEEDED IN THE END; LUTHOR, PROMETHEUS. THEY SMASHED THE LEAGUE TO PIECES LIKE IGNORANT CHILDREN.
THEY DIDN'T GET US.
DON'T BE SO SENTIMENTAL; YOU AND J'ONN CAN BUILD ANOTHER HEADQUARTERS IN TEN MINUTES.
FORGET THE WATCHTOWER...


OKAY. JUST THINK HARD INTO THE ENGINE, J'ONN SAID.
FASTER!
...SUPERMAN, J'ONN, BATMAN, ORION IN THE PHANTOM ZONE. OKAY. PLAS, STEEL, WONDER WOMAN AND BARDA IN NEW YORK. I'VE GOT LUTHOR...
UNTO YOU I COMMEND MY--
ZAURIEL?
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

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– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

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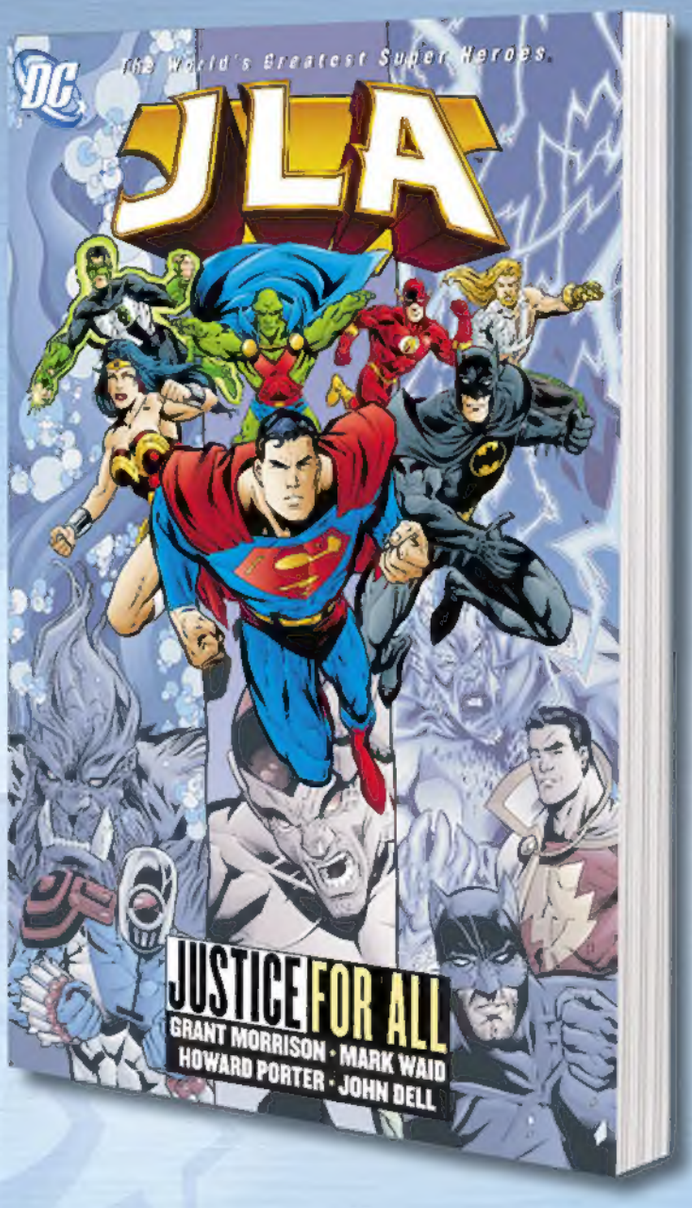

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